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A CAPTIOUS PEOPLE.

Every now and then some modernizer feels it incumbent upon himself to repeat the trite remark that Americans take their amusements sadly. When he does this he is not only tiresome, but is

The peculiarity of the American in pursuit of pleasure is not that he is too sad to enjoy what offers itself in that line, but he is too critical. He does not accept festivities and diversions for what they are worth, but criticises them because they are not more pleasing. He does not expect to enjoy anything without qualification, and when no flaw is at first visible in an entertainment that itself, he looks about for one. It is needless to say that one can invariably be found. It would to let it alone, but the "amusement" hunter drags it out, hugs it to his heart, talks about it, and allows it to overshadow whatever meritorious features there may be. The play is not what it hould be; the actors are not all Booths and Modjeskas; it is too tragic or too trivial; the songs of the soubrette are not sung as well as Patti could sing them; the jokes of the comedians are old. The social gathering might have been pleasant if certain persons had been wittier, or other persons had not been present. The dance was not well managed; the picnic would have been better on another day. There is, in shor fly in every box of ointment. The typical man and woman are never quite pleased and unreservedly happy. They are persistently critical, and, constantly bored. Their is that of one oyster, the world, has been opened and found wanting. Fortunate, indeed, are the few who have escaped the blighting contagion of this disease, who take the world as it comes, and make the best of it, ignoring the deficiencies and seeing only the brightness. The world offers a great deal to such, for when one really sets about it it is as easy to discover the clear sky as the cloud, the sun as the shadow, easier, to be exact, for, figuratively as practically, there are more clear days than dark. One with a disposition to enjoy what comes finds, continually, good reason for smiles. The play is never utterly atrocious; it has redeeming features; the dinnerparty or other festivity to which he goes is never entirely a failure because one thing goes wrong; the society of his fellow-creatures is not tiresome to him, even if they are not of his intellectual level. Any one of them can tell him something that he does not know, and he is glad to be told. This happy individual can go to a church fair or a State

blase one is in the majority.

fair and not come home feeling that the

earth is a cave of gloom. He takes life

simply; if he does not get what he asks,

he accepts cheerfully what comes, and

finds it good. He-it is more commonly

she-is a constant though unconscious

rebuke to the blase brother, but, alas, in

these degenerate and captious days, the

THE COMMONPLACE MAN. In response to that singular prompting by which timid individuals are frenently led to take the whole world into seir confidence and pour all their woes into the variable bosom of the public press, a correspondent writes to the New York Sun in pathetic solicitation of solacing interpretation of his own affairs. He is forty years old, he states, is married to a sensible woman, has a healthy, brainy boy, has accumuated the tidy little sum of \$40,000, and still is not happy. The burden of his plaint is that he has neither social, political nor churchly prominence. He has seen friends and acquaintances rise to various kinds of eminence without apparent effort, and is so impressed and depressed by his own chronic condition as a commonplace man that he borrows success, which, after all, is a movable feast, with unavoidably shifting standards, towards which the writer of the lamentation seems to have made undeniable and laudable progress, the benefits ccruing to the commonplace man are worth consideration. The happiest nane and the hanniest women are said be those without history, and with milar logic the happiest man should be | ed officers for the new society from their e man of no emmence. Blessings on own number; practically, though not stupid poll, if he doesn't yet sit up formally, declared prohibition principles, oft, he is spared the misery of having and snubbed, sat upon, and took in and e whole world looking at him. So- | did for the advocate of suffrage for suf-, he is the only free being in the | frage's sake in a way that must com-

nights with a prospect of staying there, slippered and happy in the bosom of his commonplace family. Door-bell rings have no serious terrors for him, and the thought of the tiresome round of social exactions affrights him not. He goes to bed when he feels like it, and has time and to spare to cultivate the society of his healthy, brainy, commonplace boy. Politically of no particular importance, he is yet more fortunately situated. His vote weighs as heavily in the Nation's coffers as that of the mightiest statesman on the scroll, and he eats, drinks, sleeps and takes his walks abroad withut having his buttons and buttorholes dislocated by importunate candidates and reporters. Local party bubble and trouble is to him as the sounding brass and the tinkling cymbal, and the rise and fall of administrations, from a personal stand-point, are as the faint, dying whisper of the wind in the tops of far-off mulberry trees. Of no churchly prominence, he is spared much of the hurrying to and fro which speeds the American to an early grave. He doubtless walks to the kirk on the Sabbath, pays his dues with a free and conscientious hand, and sets jewels of frequent good deeds in the inconspicuous crown of his rejoicing without a ripple of public comment. As a commonplace man, he doubtless has leisure to be a good husband, a loyal friend and a praiseworthy neighbor. He may stand to the social, the political, the religious structure as the dull red brick in the foundation to the sky-blue tile in the belfry; but to its completeness, solidity and strength, a more important factor. Estimating himself a cipher, no doubt, he neglects to measure his value in helping the mint to its millionship. Blessings again, then, on the dull wits of the commonplace man! He does not get his name in the papers, perhaps, and imagines that it is not writ in the story of nations, here and hereafter, but by just so much as the finite degree makes a part of the infinite he is woven in whatever is good, and great, and durable in the plan of human existence.

KICKING A DEAD LION.

American journalists may tear a man's reputation to fatters while he is alive, but, as a rule, they are decent enough to let him alone when he is dead. The rule seems to be reversed in England. The public, at least on this side of the water, never heard anything derogatory to the character of Wilkie Collins when he was living, but no sooner is he under the sod than the English press begins to tell his faults and failings. One well-known newspaper man, who describes himself as an intimate friend of the deceased novelist, tells the world that he was a slave to opium, and another gives details of his private life which reflect sadly upon his morality. These writers are apparently unconscious of any impropriety in making disclosures which they never dared make when the victim of their pens was alive to defend himself. The English press is fond of lecturing American newspapers, and uttering platitudes on the ethics of journalism, but it has never had anything to criticise so indecent as this treatment of Collins.

A UNION THAT DID NOT UNITE.

It is painful to note the absence of har-

mony in the proceedings of the Indiana

woman suffragists at Rushville: the

more so that this meeting was called for

the express purpose of effecting a union

of associations and promoting harmony.

As the situation is understood by those

outside of the sacred circles, the two

societies whose union was to be brought

about advocate suffrage for women as a matter of principle, and on the ground that it is an abstract right, of which they are now wrongfully, not to say feloniously, deprived by base man-not first or second base, but man in general. The points of difference between them were mere technicalities; their main objects were the same, and there seemed no reason why they should not join their forces and charge on the common enemy, the statute-making male tyrant, with redoubled strength and fury. The completion of the union. indeed, seemed a mere form to the excellent but guileless political ladies who had hitherto been the leaders of their respective clans. But they reckoned without that element which is always giving so much trouble to politicians by coming in when it isn't wanted, and holding the balance of power. Such power as these suffragists had hitherto possessed they had been able to hold in their own hands, no one, so far as known, ever having shown a disposition snatch it. They had elected themselves to the offices of the associations, had laid out plans campaign and had inveighed against their wicked oppressors year after year without interference. If dissensions had arisen, they were not based on questions of policy, but upon those little personal disagreements from which female statesmen are not more exempt than their brothers. With one accord they had refrained from specifying in detail the reforms they expected to accomplish, or, at least, the methods by which they expected to accomplish them. What they wanted was a chance to "purify politics," but they discreetly declined to say just how this was to be done. They moved, like George William Curtis and his brethren, in a region of high intellectuality far above the seething pool of practical politics. This was a mistake, for if they had mixed in that pool, or even stood on the edge and taken notes, they might not have been so badly left at Rushville, as George William Curtis the public ear to ask pathetically, "What | himself could tell them. The thirdis success?" Waiving the analysis of | party women knew a trick worth two of that. They, too, want suffrage, but they want it for the one and only purpose of downing the "demon rum," and are free to say so. Some of them, a goodly number of the convention, it appears, had become members of the "nonpartisan" suffrage associations, and were on hand to assist in the "j'inin'." They assisted with such success that they elect-

the fence, whatever their sympathies. The routed faction further displayed their lack of political shrewdness and acumen by proceeding to "kick"-if the expression be not indelicate in this connection-when they ought to know that the first principle of politics, as successfully practiced, is to submit, ostensibly at least, to the will of the majority in convention, and reserve their kicks until they will do more good. As it looks now the representatives of the lofty, abstractright-to-vote idea have but one leg, and that a lame one, to stand on, instead of the two symmetrical and united limbs that were to carry them out of Rushville. Whether they will withdraw and set up for themselves afresh or wait until they can beat their captors at their own game, is a thing no fellow can find out just now. In the meantime, while awaiting developments in female political education, the rest of the world will get in its crops and keep the government going to the best of its feeble

REFERRING to Mr. Maurice Thompson's recent statement in the Journal relative to his early blood-and-thunder novel, for which he received \$100, and how mortified he was at its recent publication, the Critic

No doubt Mr. Thompson would gladly repay the \$100, with compound interest to date, to suppress the sulphurous border story of his nonage; but the recollection of his overwhelming delight at receiving the cheque these many years ago tempers the chagrin the belated publication of the tale now causes him. Why would it not be a good idea to apply a statute of limitations to the publication, when an author has "arrived," of the pot-boiling puerilities of the time when he ut his foot on the first rung of the ladder of

It would be hard to enforce that kind of a statute of limitations. By the way, this suggests a new field for speculation, by buying the productions of talented young authors when they are poor and unknown, and holding them until the authors become popular and famous. There was a time when one of Tennyson's poems could have been bought for a very small sum, but in recent years he has received as high as \$1,000 for a few verses. So with many other poets as well as prose writers. The trouble is to pick out the winning aspirant for fame. The world is full of poor and unknown authors, who are quite sure they deserve popularity and fame, but the world does not always agree with them. It would take an expert judge to select the winning horse. It is customary nowadays for editors of magazines to accept and pay for articles which have merit and lay them away, to be published when convenient. These accepted articles accumulate, and, no doubt, are sometimes forgotten or overlooked. Many years hence some new editor, overhauling the files, may find contributions by writers now unknown to fame and struggling for recognition, who will then be popular, fashionable and famous.

THE Knoxville Sentinel, just to hand, has an editorial on the resources of East Tennessee, in which it says:

There is not a cereal, a bulb or a fruit but is either indigenous or particularly adapted to our soil and climate. We grow the delicious peach and the peachblow potato of the North; the water-melon and sweet potato of the South; the thor-oughbred herses of the blue-grass country: the fine wool sheep of the Ohio flocks; the yellow corn of Illinois and the plump white wheat of Michigan; the Jersey cew of the Eastern herds and the finest strains of porkers from the West; we have the blooming cotton of the South and the flora of the North; here the magnella and pomegranate blossom along with the poplar and ear; the tall pine of Maine and the cucumber tree of Alabama flourish alike in our forests. In short, we have everything that can be produced in a semi-tropical latitude with a semi-mountain-ous altitude in our favor.

We have always regarded East Tennessee as an interesting portion of the country, and should have been disposed to accept the foregoing as a fair and impartial statement of its attractions, had not the article concluded as follows:

This reminds us to say that the editor of the Sentinel has been complimented by Mr. B. C. Andes, who lives south of the river, with a basketful of the finest sweet potatoes we have ever looked upon. They are of the round yellow variety and weigh on an average anywhere from two to six pounds apiece.

This personal and concrete statement coming immediately after the eulogy of East Tennessee raises an unpleasant suspicion that the latter was paid for at regular rates in sweet potatoes.

THE great city of London does without any sort of Sunday postal service or letter delivery. No letters are posted after 10 o'clock Saturday night nor delivered before 3 o'clock Monday morning. Thus for twenty-nine hours there is a complete suspension of postal service in the city. The enforcement of this rule in any large American city would be denounced as oldfogyish, stupid, etc., but there is much sense and wisdom in the rule, not to speak of moral considerations. The idea that a Sunday postal service and mail delivery is a necessary feature of modern society is very strained, to say the least. If such service is a necessity it is an artificial necessity, and far more imaginary than real. The world would move on just the same, and men would be much the better in every respect if they rested one day from secular business. This is an abstract and moral view of the question. Practically, however, the demand for Sunday postal service will doubtless continue, as will the service itself. The American idea does not recognize either the duty or the value of rest, and begrudges even the forced ob-

A SERIES of curious coincidences occurs in the lives of the Right Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, Bishop of Wyoming, and the Right Rev. Abiel Leonard, Bishop of Utah, both of whom have been in attendance at the Episcopal convention in New York. Both lived as boys in the little town of Lafayette, Mo.; they were born on the same day of the month, within a year of each other, and were confirmed on the same day by the same bishop. They entered the same preparatory school on the same day, and afterward, when they went to college they went together, and entered the same class at Dartmonth on the same day. During the four years of the undergraduate course they were room-mates, and they were graduated together. Both having selected the ministry as their calling in life they were ordained to the deconate and to the ministry on the same day. Then there was a slight break in this constant advancement together. The Rev. Mr. Talbot was made a bishop three years ago, and his friend and companion was made bishop

A RECENT announcement that laborers in Philadelphia had unearthed \$20,000 in bank notes, while digging down a street, probably made many persons feel like hiring out to the street commissioner. But a later announcement that the Philadelphia find was worthless will make them glad they did not act hastily. The exhumed notes proved to be counterfeit, the manufacture of some notorious crooks who operated in that vicinity many years ago. The amount of good money buried in the

information in an old pamphlet. Davis was a lieutenant in the United States army. serving under old Zach Taylor, whose daughter he afterward ran away with and married. Taylor was in command of Fort Crawford, now Prairie du Chien. It became necessary to build other forts in the Northwest. The government sent a sawmill to Taylor to prepare the lumber. Davis was sent up the Chippewa river to locate the mill and operate it. That was the first saw-mill in what is now one of the greatest umber sections in the country. With that kind of an experience Davis ought to have known better than to fool with a buzz-saw. as he did many years later.

THE recent death of Wilkie Collins recalls some interesting personal reminiscences which he printed in a letter more than a year ago. Among other incidents' which he relates was an irate Frenchman's demand for satisfaction for having been made, as he thought, to sit for the portrait of the villainous Count Fosco, of "The Woman in White." The author went to see him, but he was not to be found. He told, also, of a lady who failed to catch his name at a dinner party, and put her foot in it by remarking: "I'm sure you don't read Wilkie Collins." The lady put her foot in it in a double sense, for if she regarded Wilkie Collins's novels as improper. how could she have known it except by reading them?

ALLOPATHIC physicians in New York are making a foolish exhibition of their hatred of homeopathists by endeavoring to make a license instead of a diploma the basis of medical standing and necessary for admission to legitimate practice. Their scheme is based on the theory that the examining board will always contain a majority of allopaths, in which case the little-pill men will have no show. The latter are too numerous, and, with their followers, too influential to permit such a plan to go into successful operation, and it only serves as an unseemly display of professional jealousy. If the allopathic system cannot stand on its own merits, nor withstand competition without the aid of the law, it is time for a

Now comes the terrible literary detective and announces that the leading ideas of Mr. Henry George's "Progress and Poverty." and especially his opposition to private ownership of land, were all set forth in a book published nearly forty years ago by a Scotchman named Patrick Edward Dore. The book was entitled "The Theory of Human Progression," and was published in London in 1850. The author's remedy for most of the ills of human society is the abolition of private ownership in land, and his ideas and arguments are said to be strikingly similar to those advanced by Mr. George. The latter has the floor. It is thought worth while by certain pa-

pers to publish, as a matter of importance, the fact that Thomas A. Edison is a theosophist. It is really a matter of no more importance as going to prove the soundness of theosophic doctrines than to say that John Smith or William Jones, or the most obscure of one's acquaintance is a believer in them. Edison is an authority on electricity, but he has, as yet, thrown no light on the divine plan that gives him the right to decide religious problems for others than himself. His opinion on these matters is as good as the "next man's," and no better.

THAT friend of prohibition, the New York Christian Advocate, has recently been moved to speak of the political paper called the Voice as an Ishmael. This week it apologizes to Ishmael for the injustice done him, and in the seemly phrase proper to a pious organ, classifies the Voice as an atrocious liar. A secular newspaper could not have told a plainer truth.

A PENNSYLVANIA paper records that fifty-three barrels of beer sold at the Nazareth fair for \$1,100. There seems to be a little incongruity between the name of the town and its industries, the exact nature of which you can figure out for yourself.

BREAKFAST-TABLE CHAT.

STEPNIAK is presently coming to America. HANS VON BULOW will give twenty con-

certs in this country next season. QUEEN VICTORIA'S pet dog is a Yorkshire terrier that weighs two and three-quarters ounds and cost \$75.

WILKIE COLLINS'S library and art treasares, of which he had a choice colliction, will be put up for sale at public auction. WHEN Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett wrote her first story, she bought the stamps to send it off with money earned by picking

MISS PROCTOR, of Lima. O., has patented process by which, it is claimed, 10,000 cubic feet of illuminating gas can be extracted from one barrel of Lima oil.

RUMORS are increasingly prevalent that Dr. Bartlett will next year retire from the presidency of Dartmouth College and be succeeded by that accomplished mathematician and charming novelist, Prof. A. S. A CALIFORNIAN who carried a horned

toad to England and sold it for \$50, has sent

home for 500 toads, and says that he proposes to remain in England until he has supplied every family with one of these de-IF you have gathered and pressed during your summer rambles a quantity of ferns,

select the most graceful and place them in your prettiest bowl of china, having first filled it with white sand. You will find in this simple arrangement a charming bit of decoration that will do wonders in lightng up the most matter-of-fact dining

EUGENE N. ROBINSON, wealthy Nevada mining man, died recently in New York. and left a property worth several hundred thousand dollars. In his will was a provision leaving his divorced wife the sum of one penny "as a token of esteem greatly in excess of the consideration which she deserves." She has not yet applied for her

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD, with his daughter. has reached San Francisco, which they leave by the next steamer for Japan, and tells the Californians that they are to be the wine-growers of the world. He also gives the Nevadans courage by telling them that their land is exactly like that of India and Arabia, made wonderfully fruitful by

LEGACIES to the amount of \$9,000, left by Benjamin Franklin and John Scott, to be expended upon public improvements, have mounted by investment for nearly a century to about \$110,000. Of this, \$100,000 will be devoted to the erection of a large public bath in Philadelphia, while the renaining \$10,000 will be laid aside for another hundred years.

A WASHINGTON gentleman shows to his friends a piece of silverware of English nake, and tells this funny story about it: Wishing the piece to bear his initials, he wrote to that effect, giving his name and dding "C. O. D." The initials being undismay the piece arrived with his initials and C. O. D. cut on it.

It is recalled, in connection with the admission of the new States, that Daniel Webster once said in a speech against the organization of a territorial government

his habit of dining alone. He could be seen any evening about 6 in one of the cafe windows overlooking Broadway taking his meal in solitude. A year ago he would have been surrounded by fawning seekers after favors. Such is greatness in a re-

THE precious gems in which Mrs. Mackay decks herself are about as well known in Paris and London as she is. Among them is a flawless sapphire nearly half an inch in diameter, which is said to have cost \$185,000; the finest emerald known to exist, for which a fabulous price was paid; an almost priceless set of rose-pink coral jew-elry, and a pair of diamond solitaires valuel at \$400,000.

A NOVEL method has been hit upon by the trustees of the State Hospital for the Insane, in Norristown, to prevent brutalities on the part of attendants toward violent and refractory patients. It is a system of complex mirrors and shafts leading to the attic or top story, by which an inspect-or stationed there is enabled to observe minutely every act and motion of the pa-tients and attendants in the wards of the first and second floors.

In the steeple of the Congregationa Church at Bingham. Somerset county. Maine, there hangs an ancient bell that has been swinging in various belfries 100 years or more. On its outer surface is stamped "Revere, Boston," and it is supposed have been made by Paul Revere, who, after the peace of 1783, established a foundry in Boston, where he cast the first cannon and bells manufactured in Massachusetts. The old bell has a good tone, and seems like

to last another century. THE Patria, of Beunos Ayres, affirms that there is now in Bolivia a surgeon, Luca Silva by name, whose age is not less than ne hundred and twenty-nine years. He was born in Cochamba in 1760, and devoted himself, after graduating in medicine, to the practice of surgery. Lately he was taken to the house of Senor Jose Ramalio, president of the Dramatic College, at La Paz, and gave a lurid account of the revo-lution, in 1809, which resulted in the emancipation of his country from the Spanish

THE Ostasiatische Lloyd says that the Empress and members of the aristocracy of Japan have given up the idea of adopting the Western styles of dress for women. The Parisian models did not please the peowill again be worn exclusively. The great 'Lady-tailoring Establishment" in Tokio. which has been under the charge of a Parisian, has closed its doors for lack of work to do. The Lloyd greets the failure of the pretended reform, declaring that a more complete caricature was never seen han a Japanese woman in a bonnet and dress of the bonlevards.

THE late Andrew J. Geiger, of Philadelphia, left an estate valued at \$250,000. His will provides for the erection of an obelisk over his grave. The panel on the east side is to contain his name, age and date of death. The north side will bear this inscription: "Traveled 60,000 miles in America, Europe, Asia and Africa." The south panel is to read: "Young man, stop and think. See what has been the reward for honesty, industry and economy. In 1840 worked on Robert Martin's farm, near Jersey shore, for 25 cents a day. No fortune left to me." The west panel will say: "Lived and died in the faith of the immutable and unchangeable, and nature's God. Believed in the gospel of peace, right and justice."

WILLIAM BLACK, like many of the present English novelists, attributes all the villainous slang which garnishes his books to Americans. They seem to think that they have fully accounted for and apologized for a vulgar phrase when they attribute it to "the Americans." Mr. Black, for instance. has this: "To use an American phrase, 'nine distinct sorts of a born fool;" and this: "In the words of the American poet, 'he is a commodious ass.'" Perhaps it would be rash to assert that any American poet ever sang of a "commodious ass." but Mr. Black's acquaintance with the poet and he other persons who use or have used these expressions must be much larger than the mass of respectable Americans, if he really knows of the existence of such a personage.

STUDEBAKER'S PLUCK.

His Damaged Residence Will Be Put in Or der for the Pan-Americans. South Bend Tribune.

South Benders are not to be disappointed in the matter of the members of the International American Congress visiting South Bend on account of the destruction of Mr. Studebaker's residence in which they were to be entertained. Mr. Studebaker was met between here and Toledo by his brother, P. E., who informed him of the exact condition of the burned residence. As soon as he reached home and passed greetings with his children he hurried up-stairs in the Skerritt residence to the room where his wife lay, her face completely hidden from sight by bandages. The greeting was a most affectionate one, and Mr. Studebaker was completely overcome by his wife's condition. She assured him that her condition was not so bad as appearances indicated, and that she would be all right in his congressional duties the same as if there had been no fire. After further consulta-tion with his wife Mr. Studebaker telegraphed his brother members of the Pan-American congress to come to South Bend by all means, and that he would entertain as he had intended to do

them in the ruins of Tippecanoe Place just Of course the members will miss the gratification of seeing one of the most magnificent residences in the country, with all of its elegant appointments and art treasures. but, nevertheless, it will be a unique experience to sit down to a collation in the ruins. A temporary roof will be thrown over the ruins just above the second story. This will be done immediately, to protect the lower, main and second floors, many of the rooms of which are in fair condition. This roof will answer for the workmen's rotection, also, until a permanent roof can e erected, which will take, perhaps, ninety days. The dining-room, breakfast-room and adjoining hall are but little injured, while the cusine departments in the rear are in as good shape as ever. On the floor above, the reception-room and parlor are in good shape, and the main hall, though in ad condition now. can, except the grand staircase, be made a good assembly-room by the 19th inst.

Men Who Look in the Glass. Minneapolis Tribune.

The idea that women are the only mortals that gaze at themselves in a mirror may be quite generally accepted, but it is resist the desire to take a squint at himself. He may, and often does, do it on the sly: but he does it just the same. If any one doubts the truth of this statement let him catch the men as they step into an elevator in any one of the business blocks. The first thing a man does after entering is to place himself squarely before the reflector and view his counterpart on the other side of the glass. If caught at it, he usually turns quickly away with a hang-dog expression of countenance; or if a friend happens to enter, he at once engages him in conversation about the weather, business or some kind of topic. But when a fellow has the elevator all to himself he will stand and admire himself as long as any one of gentler sex.

Progressive Womankind.

Indiana has only one woman doing min-isterial work. She is Miss Milla F. Tupper, a graduate of Cornell University and pas-tor of the Unitarian Church at LaPorte. The time will come when such a sight as women acting as pastors of churches will excite no more general comment than that members of the sex sit in journalistic chairs or appear in the lecture field. If St. Paul were to come back to earth in these proressive times, he would have to drop some f his notions or straggle among the campfollowers of the great march.

American News Abroad

Charleston News and Courier.

Soon after the news of the Louisiana defalcation reached Liverpool, the Post of | at the wharf. On the other side of these an of no emmence. Blessings on apid poll, if he doesn't yet sit up he is spared the misery of having he is the only free being in the is the tould never be governed by the that it could never be governed by the United States," and a delegate to Congress "Colonet Bandon the intertion of the territorial government of for Oregon that the region was "so far off that the could never be governed by the United States, and a delegate to Congress "Colonet Bandon the intertion of the territorial government of for Oregon that the could never be governed by the United States, "and a delegate to Congress "Colonet Bandon the intertion of the tenth that the original that it could never be governed by the United States, "and a delegate to Congress "Colonet Bando

PORTSMOUTH NAVY-YAR

An Historic Place That Will Be Used Reconstructing the American Navy.

Its Transformation from a Naval Station Colonial Times to Its Present Importance -A Model Ship-Building Plant.

Staff Correspondence of the Indianapolis Journal. WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 .- No subject before navy. A proportionate interest attaches to the reconstruction of the navy-yards, by which the government is to be enabled to construct her new ships and equip them for warfare. In order to rebuild and repair new vessels, it has been necessary to improve the plants at the more important navy-yards. Of these, next in importance to that in Brooklyn is the navy-yard at Norfolk, Va. Accounts have recently ap. peared in the newspapers of the opening the large wooden dry-docks at this yar and of the successful docking in it of the war-ship Yantic, attended with appropriat ceremonies. The battle-ship Texas, about which considerable controversy has arise, is now building there, and the Secretary & the Navy has just ordered that the co struction of one of the new 3,000-ton cruiser shall be undertaken at this yard. A short account of this government establishmen and the work going on there may therefore not be without interest.

The establishment of the yard at Gosport, as the lower end of the present city of Portsmouth was then called, dates from colonial times. The British government, just before the Revolution, selected the site on the report of one of its agents as the most eligible situation for a naval station in its American colonies. Scarcely had the work begun, however, when the Revolution broke out, and the place was taken possession of by Virginia. The yard was recaptured by the British in 1779, and set on fire. In 1801 the yard was bought from the State of Virginia by the United States, previously in building vessels. The yard comprised at that time an area of about sixteen acres. In 1827 a large amount of perty surrounding the yard was purhased and the yard increased to nearly its present size. In the same year the construction of a stone dry-dock was begun on a part of the newly-acquired land. This dock was completed in 1833. On June 17 of that year the dock was opened, and the -battle ship Delaware docked in it with imposing ceremonies. The total cost

of this dock was \$974,356.65. This dock has since been in continuous service, and many fine ships have been docked in it. The chamber of the dock is 253 feet long and 85½ feet wide at the coping. The extreme length of the dock which can be made available by placing the floating gate outside the entrance, is 320 feet. Up to the beginning of the civil war various improvements were made, consisting of filling in the grounds, erection of shops, storehouses, cisterns, wharves, and the building of a timber dock or pond for the preservation of timber under water. the outbreak of the civil war the yard was abandoned by the United States authorities. The ship-houses and other buildings were set on fire, the vessels lying at the wharves burned and sunk, among them the amous Merrimac, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to blow up the stone drydock. The yard was taken possession of by the confederates and the sunken Merrimac raised and rebuilt under the name of the lirginia. Her subsequent history is well

The City of Norfolk was surrendered to the United States forces on May 10, 1862. Early the following morning the Merrimac was blown up by the confederates, who also set fire to the yard, and abandoned it, after another attempt to blow up the dry-dock, which was only partially successful. At this time the yard had been almost entirely destroyed; but few buildings left standing. The work of reconstruction was, however, taken up energetically by the United States at the conclusion of the war. New buildings were erected and old ones repaired, the stone dry-dock put in a serviceable con-dition, and the bulks sunk at the wharves raised or removed. Since the year 1870 comparatively little had been done to improve the yard or to fit it for doing work of a character consonant with the rapid strides in the art of ship-building until the past

Our old wooden vessels required comparatively little machinery to build them. the most important being a saw-mill, a blacksmith's shop and a small machine-shop for making the many fittings used even in a wooden vessel of the old type. The in terest aroused in the country in the improvement of the navy enabled the Navy Department to arouse Congress to the importance of an adequate plant of machinery at the important navy-yards for building and repairing iron and steel vessels. The first appropriation for this purpose was made by Congress in August, 1886, in an act appropriating \$2,500,000 for the increase of the navy, in which it was provided that not a short time. She urged him to continue in | exceeding \$150,000 might be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy tirely inadequate to the general building of the navy-yards, and the Secretary of the Navy determined that the amount should be used to equip only two yards with new tools, and decided upon those of Brookyn and at Portsmouth (generally called the New York and Norfolk navy-yards), as being most suitable. At the same time it was decided to build the two armored yessels authorized by the same act, at these vards. The sum of \$75,000 allotted to the Norfolk yard was insufficient for the estabishment of a first-class plant, and a building to cover it, and in the appropriation bill passed in September, 1888, there was an item of \$75,000 for a building to contain the new tools. A further sum of \$50,000 was appropriated last spring for additional tools, for which the proposals have just been The work of designing and building up

> the new plant for the Portsmouth navy yard has been carried on entirely by Naval Constructor Francis T. Bowles, under the superintendence of Commodore George Brown, commandant of the yard. During the fall of 1887 and the spring of 1888, a large and commodious shed was designed and built for the accommodation of the new tools, and a schedule of these having been prepared, advertisements were made for proposals in March of last year. In April the contracts were awarded, and the last of these tools have only lately been delivered The result is a model ship-building plant, parts of which have been adopted as models by some of the private ship-building firms.
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> The area inclosed in the navy-yard proper is eighty-two and a half acres, and ground site side of the river used for storing guns and ammunition, forty acres, the whole being valued at \$745,000. On this ground there are nearly forty buildings of large and small sizes. Many of these buildings are storehouses, in which large amounts of materials of all sorts are kept on hand Others are large workshops, and some are officers' quarters. The total valuation of the real estate, buildings, etc., in the yard, is 4,000,000. The work of the yard is sublivided among different departments. The construction department has charge of the building and repairs to the halls of vessels, the department of steam engineering has the building and repairs of steam engines of all sorts, the department f yards and docks, the erection and care buildings, grounds, wharves, docks, etc.; the ordnance department, the guns and

mmunition, etc. The navy-yard at the present time pre-sents quite a busy aspect. The ribs of the iron-clad battle-ship Texas are beginning to rise in the ship, and present quite a com-plicated frame work. Near the Texas a arge pair of shears towers over a hundred feet into the air. These shears were bought about a year ago, and erected on an enormous granite foundation, which rises partly above. These shears are the most powerful hoisting apparatus in the United States. and are capable of lifting a weight of 150 tons and putting it on board a vessel lying shears workmen are actively engaged in preparing the slip for cruiser No. 8, which is not as yet named. In front of the Texas is the large new shed filled with heavy tools, and alive with moving belts and pulleys. In the upper end of the shed are two large furnaces, whose interiors are at a white heat, in which large plates and long of the negro as a laborat.

bars are heated. Alongside of draulic power at a pressure of 1,500 pounds to the square inch, which is capable of bending into U shape, at one operation, a plate of iron twenty feet long and two inches thick. Close by are large bending rolls for bending plates with rollers twenty-six inches in diameter, moved by two steam engines belonging especially to the rolls. Besides these there are punches, shears, planers and cranes, all arranged in most orderly manner, but presenting a bewildering appearance to one unaccustomed to such sights. Among the tools is a machine called a cold saw, which is like an immense circular saw sixty inches in diameter. When in operation this saw makes 1,800 revolutions per minute, and seems to cu through large bars of iron or steel as if he country is more absorbingly interesting they were made of cheese. All this maust at this time than that of rebuilding the chinery is kept in motion by a powerful which, in its engine-room, kept bright and clean as a new pin by its engineer, is a beautiful sight. Behind this shed is an-other large building, full of lathes and department for making fittings for the hulls of ships. Close by are blacksmith and other visitor. All this machinery in the different shops belonging to the construction department is valued at about \$225,000. At the lower end of the yard are similar buildings containing the machinery of all sorts for building the largest marine engines. The machinery contained in them is valued at nearly \$175,000. Near by, and lying pardock and the new wooden one. They pre-sent a striking contrast. The old stone dock has been described above, It is still

> The new dock is built entirely of wood, on foundation of piles and cement. Its principal dimensions are: Length over all on coping, 530 feet; length over all inside o caisson, 500 feet; width on top amidships, 130 feet; width on floor amidships, 50 feet: width on floor at entrance, 58 feet; width on top of entrance, 85 feet; depth of gate sill below coping, 3012 feet; depth of water over sill at high water, 2512 feet. The machinery for operating the dock consists of two centrifugal pumps, each 42 inches in diameter, driven by two vertical engines 28 inches in diameter, and 24 inches stroke. Steam power is furnished by three steam boilers 13 feet in diameter and 11 feet long. The pum have a capacity of 80,000 gallons a minute, and the dock can be emptied of water in about an hour and a half. The contract price for this dock was \$500,000, and the money was appropriated by Congress in March, 1887. At the same time \$20,000 was appropriated for a railroad within the yard. This road has been laid to standard gauge, and is of great convenience in moving heavy weights. It connects outside the gates with all the lines of railroad, so that cars of materials can be distributed to all parts of the yard without unloading. An appropriation has been made for lighting the yard and buildings by electricity, and the work will doubtless be begun during the year.
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> The wisdom of the British in selecting

doing excellent service

the site for a navy-yard has been well proven. The country possesses a mild, equable climate, in which outside work can be carried on at all seasons of the year. The Elizabeth river, together with Hamproads, gives applies in the lower Chesapeake and its tributaries. Although it is at present not essessed of any modern defenses, yet it could soon be strongly fortified, and its harbor undermined with tor yard has a large force of skilled workmen to draw from, who, although they have been hitherto engaged almost entirely in wooden ship-building, are rapidly learning its cognate branch, iron and steel shipbuilding. The yard is not inconvenience by rapid tides, and is readily accessible to vessels of great draught. What is now needed most urgently to

make the yard a more effective base of supplies for naval vessels is a modern system for rapidly coaling and victualing ships. This will no doubt be accomplished in time and then Uncle Sam will have an establishment of which he may well be proud. PERRY S. HEATH.

SUFFERING IN DAKOTA.

A County in Which the Crops Have Failed for Three Years-Plea for Food.

Sr. Paul, Minn., Oct. 12.-Owing to the extreme drought there was a failure of crops in Ramsey county. Dakota, and in consequence over one hundred families are reported to be without any means of subsistence during the coming winter. Two lady delegates, Mrs. H. N. Kellner, president, and Mrs. C. N. Pickering, secretary, of the Ramsey county relief committee, have arrived in St. Paul to personally urge the cause of the sufferers. The ladies brought with them a letter signed by about sixty of the business tirms of Grand Forks and vicinity. In an interview Mrs. Kellner says the half has not been told of the sufferings of the farmers living in the drought belt of Ramsey county. There have been three successive failures of the crops, and more than a hundred families are not only on the verge of starvation but without sufficient clothing to protect them from the weather even at this season. Dozens of men, women and children are without shoes or stockings, and many of the little ones have no other covering than an ordinary gunny sack with holes cut for the head and arms. For weeks these people have been subsisting on roots or herbs until now their supplies are wholly exhausted. Some flour has been sent to them from the outside. but not enough to give each of the families a supply for even one batch of bread. Unless relief is received very soon many must

The matter of affording relief to the sufferers has been referred by the Mayor of St. Paul to the Chamber of Commerce, and that body placed it in the bands of a special committee. W. C. Daniels and A. M. Tatthogen, of Lakeota, N. D., have donated ten car-loads of coal to the suffering

Secretive Benevolence.

farmers.

Two very pretty girls in this town reently attended service in a church where hey were strangers. When the time came for taking up the collection they found to their dismay, that they had but one cert between them. And there, coming up their side of the aisle with the plate, was a lovely young man with whom they were slightly acquainted. They simply couldn't put that solitary cent in the plate, and to put in nothing was not to be thought of. Then one of the girls bethought her that she had a small envelope in her pocket. She pulled it out, dropped the coin in it, sealed it, and when the lovely young man came along she dropped the envelope in with an air that made the collector think it contained at the very least a \$5 note.

At the Authors' Club.

Brown-Who is that seedy-looking indidual with long hair? Jones-That is Starvling, the renowned poet. His great masterpiece was published in the last number of Scribbler's Magazine. Brown—And who is that well-dressed gentleman who just snubbed him so unmer-

Jones-He is also a poet. He writes the advertisements for Plum's soap.

Might Have Shipped It Ahead by Freight. Phra Somdeth Chulalonkorn, King of Siam, has reached Paris a little late. would have arrived earlier, but it was hard work and delayed matters to get his long and crooked name through the Suez canal

Took It for a Bird.

"They have a dado there that is six feet "In their dining-room?"

"Well, of course, it is caged?"

Or Those of Marion County. Albany Journal. Floods at Bellows Falls, Vt., removed the

old river bridge toll-gate, yesterday, but